

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 IO-10 ACDA-05

SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /087 W

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R 101411Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1146

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, IS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER TO BERLIN

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ISRAELI PRIMIN RABIN, ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE, VISITED BERLIN JULY 8-9 FOR FIRST VISIT OF HEAD OF STATE TO CITY SINCE QA CAME INTO EFFECT THREE YEARS AGO. VISIT WAS WELL-RECEIVED BY BERLIN PRESS WHICH COVERED IT EXTENSIVELY EVEN USING HEBREW PRINT FOR GREETINGS TO PRIMIN. SIGNIFICANCE OF VISIT IN TERMS OF OVERCOMING GERMAN PAST WAS STRESSED IN EDITORIALS IN BOTH MODERATE AND CONSERVATIVE PRESS. SOVIETS HAVE PROTESTED VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. TIGHTLY PACKED SCHEDULE INCUEDED CONVERSATION WITH GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ, GOLDEN BOOK SIGNING CEREMONY AND DINNER, TOUR OF CITY INCLUDING BERLIN WALL, WREATHLAYING AT JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER MEMORIAL TO CONCENTRATION CAMP
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VICTIMS, AND PRESS CONFERENCE. CROWD EXPOSURE WAS LIMITED

BY TIGHT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN WHICH US AIDED IN NUMBER OF WAYS, AMONG THEM MAKING HELICOPTER AVAILABLE TO POLICE. ONE SMALL ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATION OCCURRED IN KURFUERSTENDAMM AREA WITHOUT ATTRACTING MUCH NOTICE; OTHERWISE VISIT WENT OFF WITHOUT HITCHES.

3. SOVIET EMBASSY EAST BERLIN WARNED BEFORE VISIT THAT SOVIETS MIGHT FEEL IMPELLED PROTEST RABIN'S VISIT TO BERLIN IN CONTEXT OF VISIT TO FRG. BRITISH INFORMED US LATE JULY 9 PROTEST HAD IN FACT BEEN MADE AND PROVIDED TEXT BEING SENT SEPTEL. WE NOTE NO HIGH FRG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ACCOMPANIED RABIN ALTHOUGH FRG AMB TO ISRAEL WAS ON HAND.

4. RABIN VISIT WAS OCCASION FOR PROMINENT BERLIN POLITICIANS AND PUBLIC FIGURES INCLUDING PUBLISHER AXEL SPRINGER TO REAVOW PUBLICLY THEIR SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. RABIN HIMSELF NOTED HE CAME WITH MIXED FEELINGS BUT THAT VISIT WAS STEP TOWARD BETTER ISRAELI UNDERSTANDING WITH GERMANY. QUOTE ONE MUST LOOK FORWARD UNQUOTE. GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ DESCRIBED VISIT AS PART OF "HEALING PROCESS" WHILE CDU CHAIRMAN AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE PRESIDENT LORENZ THOUGHT VISIT WAS EXEMPLARY FOR GERMAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS. IN MORGENPOST'S WORDS, QUOTE NO ISRAELI STATESMAN HAD YET SOUGHT SO CLEARLY TO PLACE A BRIDGE OF RECONCILIATION OVER THE TRAGEDIES OF THE PAST UNQUOTE.

5. RABIN'S ADMIRATION FOR THE COURAGE OF BERLINERS, HIS WILLINGNESS TO VISIT BERLIN WALL, AND CLARITY WITH WHICH HE LET IT BE KNOWN HE WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH GDR WERE NOT LOST ON BERLINERS. PRESS ALSO ADDED HUMAN TOUCH IN PICTURES AND BIOGRAPHIES OF RABIN'S EAST PRUSSIAN-BORN WIFE, WHO LAST VISITED BERLIN AT AGE 5.

6. RABIN'S REMARKS AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON US/ISRAELI RELATIONS BEING REPORTED BY SEPTEL.GEORGE

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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